## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A method of screening test compounds for the ability to prevent or treat a pathogen infection in a mammal comprising assaying said test compounds for the ability to inhibit Abl kinase activity, wherein a test compound that inhibits Abl kinase activity is a candidate agent for use in preventing or treating a pathogen infection.
- 2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said assay is a cell-free assay.
- 3. The method according to claim 2 wherein said assay comprises incubating Abl and a substrate therefor in the presence and absence of test compound and determining the amount of phosphorylation of said substrate, wherein a test compound that inhibits phosphorylation of said substrate is a candidate agent for use in preventing or treating a pathogen infection.
- 4. The method according to claim 3 wherein said substrate is GST-Crk.
- 5. The method according to claim 1 wherein said assay is a cell-based assay.
- 6. The method according to claim 1 wherein said test compounds are assayed for the ability to inhibit Abl kinase activity indirectly.

- 7. A method of preventing or treating a pathogen infection comprising administering to a mammal in need of such prevention or treatment an inhibitor of Abl tyrosine kinase in an amount sufficient to effect said prevention or treatment.
- 8. The method according to claim 7 wherein said pathogen is a bacterial or viral pathogen.
- 9. The method according to claim 8 wherein said pathogen is a bacterial pathogen.
- 10. The method according to claim 9 wherein said bacterial pathogen is selected from the group consisting of *Shigella flexneri*, Enteropathogenic *E. coli* and Salmonella.
- 11. The method according to claim 8 wherein said pathogen is a viral pathogen.
- 12. The method according to claim 10 wherein said viral pathogen is vaccinia.
- 13. The method according to claim 7 wherein said method is a method of treatment.
- 14. The method according to claim 7 wherein said method said mammal is a human.

15. The method according to claim 7 wherein said inhibitor inhibits Abl tyrosine kinase indirectly.